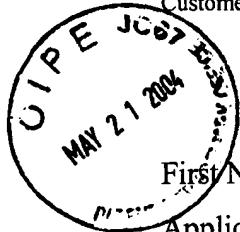


32692

Customer Number

Patent

Case No.: 58802US002



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: BLETTE, RUSSELL E.

Application No.: 10/628220 Group Art Unit: 3644

Filed: July 28, 2003 Examiner: Lofdahl, Jordan M.

Title: LINE SPLICING USING BARB AND RECEIVER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

5/18/04

Date

Joyce Courtney

Signed by: Joyce M. Courtney

Dear Sir:

Introduction

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 9, 2004, in which restriction between claims 1-15 and 18-24 (Group I) and claims 16 and 17 (Group II) was required. In addition, election of a single disclosed species was required; claims 1-10 and 13-24 were deemed generic.

Upon review of the file, it was noted that the initialed Form PTO-1449 filed with the Disclosure Statement dated October 14, 2003 has not been received. It is requested that the Examiner initial the Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience, and return it to the undersigned attorney.

Election

Applicants elect Group I for immediate prosecution. This election is made without traverse. Applicants elect Species B as illustrated in Figure 3B if no generic claim is deemed patentable. The requirement for election of species is traversed.